

# Container Recycling Operation

**(CROP)**

## CROP Information

CROP (Container Recycling Operation) is the name for the plastic pesticide container recycling program. This project is a joint venture between the Idaho Crop Production Association (IPCA), Idaho Agricultural Aviation Association (IAAA), and other agricultural industries, Professional Lawn Care Companies and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Its purpose is to recycle your non-degradable plastic pesticide and crop production containers rather than have them burned, illegally dumped, or placed in a landfill. The only requirements are that your containers be properly cleansed and, in some cases, cut down in size to accommodate the opening size of the chipper.

## How to Participate

Since the program is free of charge to all participants and sponsors, all you must do to participate is contact your local pesticide dealer or the Department. Many chemical dealers throughout the state will be conducting collection days so you may bring your **clean** containers to their sites for inclusion into the program. As schedules are developed for the coming season, they will be posted at this website. You should contact your dealer prior to bringing in your containers to the collection sites listed.

## Acceptable Containers

**The most important requirement of containers is that they be CLEAN.** There can be no residue left in or on the container. Labels that are glued on may be left on the container; however, label booklets, rubber gaskets, and all metal must be removed. There are two methods by which your containers can be assured clean; they are **triple rinsing** and **power rinsing**.

Containers must be made of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE). Most containers will have a No. 2 recyclable plastics symbol appearing on them inside the universal recycle symbol. In addition, containers over 5 gallons must be cut down (by the owner) by skill saw or other methods in order to accommodate the chipper unit opening of 16 by 20 inches. Thick walled 5 gallon containers must also be cut. As a reminder, any containers not meeting the criteria for cleanliness will be sent back with their owner so as to minimize the possibility of contamination. Proper cleaning instructions are provided so Please Be Careful.

## Equipment

Our mobile chipping unit, first used June 3, 1997, is based on a diesel-powered Ford F-800 flat-bed truck with stake sides. Mounted to the bed are the chipper, separator, and a 40 kW diesel generator which provides power to the granulator unit.

## Funding

Equipment for the CROP program was purchased with money provided by the Idaho Crop Production Association, Idaho Agricultural Aviation Association, Environmental Care Association, Western Crop Protection Association, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, Simplot and DuPont Companies.



The Agricultural Container Research Council (ACRC) subsidizes the program by purchasing the recycled granulated plastic product through a subcontractor, Ag Plastics Recycle (APR) at a subsidized price. APR in turn, extrudes the chips into wood substitute products such as pallets, fence posts, speed bumps and parking lot stops or other ACRC approved uses.

## **Sponsoring Collections**

Donations enabled the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to purchase the self-contained mobile chipping unit. The Agricultural Container Research Council (ACRC) subsidizes the program by purchasing the chips through a subcontractor, Ag Plastics Recycle (APR) at a subsidized price. To make the program self-sufficient and thereby ensure facilitation of our program at no cost to you and your customers, sponsors are needed for the CROP collection days.

The key to making our program self-sufficient is active participation of as many dealers, growers, and landfills as possible in each regional area of the state. This requires scheduling a sponsor and then getting the word out to each and every individual who might be interested in participating. Participation is easy and takes little time. Your customers appreciate the opportunity to properly dispose of their empty containers and it provides you a method by which to clear valuable storage space for better uses.

To schedule your business as a collection site, contact the Department. A time will be scheduled that will be both convenient to you and will most effectively utilize our mobile chipper. This is an excellent way to show the public that your company cares about the environment and are conscientious about the stewardship of your products.

## **Some Facts about CROP**

1. Participants are able to recycle containers through this program free of charge.
2. Our equipment is mobile and completely self-contained.
3. Acceptable containers are made from High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and COMPLETELY FREE OF RESIDUE.
4. Product containers range in size from just a few ounces to 56 gallons in size. Any container larger than five gallons must be reduced in size (cut down with a skill saw or other method) to accommodate the chipper opening of 16 inches by 20 inches. Thick walled 5 gallon containers must also be cut.
5. Recycled chips are used in wood-substitute products such as pallets, fence posts, speed bumps and parking lot stops.
6. At present, our system can reduce approximately 1,000 containers per hour